

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3641

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 4028

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GR, CY, TU

SUBJECT: FORCIBLE EVACUATION OF GREEK-CYPRIOTS FROM
NORTH OF CYPRUS

REF: STATE 119049

1. IN CALL ON MFA GREECE-CYPRUS DEPDIR GUVENDIREN MAY 21,
EMBOFF RAISED THE QUESTION OF THE TREATMENT OF GREEK CYPRIOTS
IN NORTHERN CYPRUS, MAKING THE POINTS LISTED IN PARA 2 REFTEL
AND DRAWING ALSO ON OTHER RECENT REPORTING ABOUT THIS SITUATION.

2. GUVENDIREN LISTENED CAREFULLY AND THEN MADE THE FOLLOWING
POINTS IN REPLY:

A. HE WAS WELL AWARE THAT THIS SITUATION WAS BEING
MADE A THEME OF GREEK CYPRIOT PROPAGANDA, AND HE REGARDED
THE RECENT BRITISH TELEVISION DOCUMENTARY ON THE SUBJECT AS
BIASED AND UNFAIR.

B. HE HAD VISITED CYPRUS TWO WEEKS AGO AND HAD
USED THE OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT THE KARPASS PENINSULA DN TO TALK
WITH THE GREEK CYPRIOTS ENCLAVED THERE. (GUVENDIREN WAS
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BORN IN CYPRUS AND SPEAKS CYPRIOT GREEK.) HE EXPLAINED

THAT HE HAD NOT TRUSTED THE REPORTS ON THE SITUATION FROM DENKTASH AND HAD ANTED TO GET A FIRST HAND UNDERSTANDING.

C. THE BASIC PROBLEM OF THE GREEK CYPRIOTS IN THE NORTH IS THAT THEY LIVE IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF UNCERTAINTY AND FEAR. THEY KNOW THAT THEY ARE SURROUNDED BY A HOSTILE COMMUNITY. ALTHOUGH THE TURKISH ARMY AND TURKISH CYPRIOT POLICE HAVE TAKEN PRECAUTIONS TO PROTECT THE GREEK CYPRIOTS AGAINST ATTACK BY PRIVATE TURKISH CYPRIOTS, THE GREEK CYPRIOTS' FEELING OF INSECURITY COULD NOT BE ELIMINATED BECAUSE OF THE OVERALL SITUATION OF CYPRUS. THE GREEK CYPRIOTS IN THE NORTH, THEREFORE, WOULD MUCH PREFER TO BE WITH THEIR OWN PEOPLE IN THE SOUTH.

D. THE ONLY FACTOR THAT HOLDS MOST OF THE GREEK CYPRIOTS IN THE NORTH IS ECONOMIC: THE MARKET IN THE NORTH FOR THEIR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS PROVIDES GENERALLY A BETTER INCOME THAN THEY COULD GET IN THE SOUTH.

E. THE GREEK CYPRIOTS ARE NOT BEING FORCED TO LEAVE THE NORTH. NEITHER THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT NOR DO THE TURKISH CYPRIOT ADMINISTRATORS HOLD ANY PREJUDICE AGAINST THEM. IF THERE WERE ANY DESIRE TO FORCE THEM TO LEAVE, THE MOST EFFECTIVE MEASURE WOULD BE ECONOMIC DISCRIMINATION. SUCH A MEASURE IS NOT BEING APPLIED.

F. AS SOON AS THE GREEK CYPRIOTS LEAVING THE NORTH ARRIVE IN THE SOUTH, THEY CLAIM THAT THEY LEFT UNDER DURESS. SUCH CLAIMS ARE A NECESSARY DEFENSE BECAUSE THE MAKARIOS ADMINISTRATION DOES NOT WANT THEM TO ABANDON THE NORTH.

G. UNFICYP COULD PERFORM A USEFUL FUNCTION BY MONITORING THE CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH GREEK CYPRIOTS LEAVE THE NORTH. HOWEVER, TO PERMIT UNFICYP TO DO SO, AN AGREEMENT WOULD HAVE TO BE WORKED OUT BETWEEN UNFICYP AND THE TURKISH CYPRIOTS. THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH AN AGREEMENT WAS MENTIONED AT VIENNA III.

3. EMBOFF ASKED GUVENDIREN IF HE PERSONALLY FELT COMPLETELY SATISFIED THAT NO HARASSMENT OR PRESSURE TACTICS HAD BEEN CONFIDENTIAL

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APPLIED IN ORDER TO ENCOURAGE THE GREEK CYPRIOTS TO LEAVE THE NORTH. GUVENDIREN'S RESPONSE WAS THAT IN HIS VISIT TO THE KARPASS AREA, HE HAD HEARD NO SUCH COMPLAINTS FROM THE GREEK CYPRIOTS. BY CONTRAST, TURKISH CYPRIOTS IN THE AREA HAD COMPLAINED TO HIM THAT THE POLICE HAD PUNISHED THEM FOR ACTIONS INVOLVING GREEK CYPRIOTS AND HAD DONE SO IN FRONT OF THE GREEK CYPRIOTS.
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